

USDA/Rural Development

Bismarck, North Dakota

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT SETS RECORD FUNDING

Bismarck, December 13, 2002 – ND State Director for USDA Rural Development Clare

Carlson reported the agency in North Dakota set a record this year for delivery of program dollars to North Dakota residents. The agency provided \$76.7 million in federal support for rural communities during Fiscal Year (FY) 2002, which ended September 30, 2002.

"It's really a privilege to have delivered this level of service to North Dakota and a tribute to the hard work and dedication of USDA Rural Development employees and partners," said Carlson.

In FY 2002, ND Rural Development funded 56 Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and Rural Business Cooperative Service (RBS) projects totaling more than \$48 million. This amount includes \$28 million of RUS funding that provided for water and environmental programs assuring safe drinking water and environmentally effective wastewater systems to ND residents.

One of President Bush's goals is to help families attain the dream of homeownership in rural communities and to strengthen the overall quality of life for rural families. ND Rural Development provided more than \$14 million for 251 new homeowners. In addition, the Multi-Family Housing portfolio provided more than \$2.4 million, which was used in the construction of three new projects, one each on the Spirit Lake, Fort Berthold and Turtle Mountain Indian Reservations, and in the rehabilitation of three existing complexes in ND rural communities.

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Rural Development helps North Dakotans in other ways through partnerships with public and private community based organizations in providing financial assistance towards repairs and preservation of existing homes, emergency assistance during national disasters, and technical and supervisory assistance for business and strategic planning.

Through Rural Development's Community Facilities programs, a record 16 projects funded in FY 2002, totaling \$5.5 million for essential community projects such as schools, health clinics, ambulances, fire stations and rescue equipment, and libraries.

FY 2002 Program highlights include:

- 257 families received housing loans
- 111 families received housing rehabilitation support
- 16 essential Community Facilities projects
- 336 jobs saved or created through Business and Industry Loans and Loan Guarantees
- 4,034 new residential users served with domestic drinking water project funding
- 338 families received rental assistance

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service and Rural Utilities Service. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at www.usda.gov.

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